

Developmental Disabilities Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

DDDS Fox Run, 2540 Wrangle Hill Road, Bear DE

AND DDC Office, 410 Federal Street, Dover DE

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Members Present: Rick Kosmalski (Chairperson), Derrick George, Laura Greene, Isabel Rivera-Green, Michael Harris, Jocelyn Langrehr, Debra McCann, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Dale Matusevich, Joseph Merritt, Jr., Carrie Melchisky, Beth Mineo, Angela Mitchell, Chris Oakes, Laura Waterland

Members Absent: Maitri Campbell, Moni Edgar, Alvin Emory, Jr., Karen Gallagher, Terri Hancharick, Katie Howe, Nancy Lemus, Katie Macklin,

Staff: Stefanie Lancaster, Kristin Harvey, Emmanuel Jenkins

Guests: Victoria Counihan (Deputy Attorney General), Rachel Engle (DDC Intern), William Powell

- I. Call to Order** - Rick Kosmalski called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.
- II. Approval of Minutes – December Council meeting minutes** – A motion was made by a Laura Waterland to approve the December Council meeting minutes. A second was made by Michael Harris. The minutes were approved as submitted.
- III. Approval of the Agenda** – To ensure sufficient time for the Executive Session to discuss the hiring of the Executive Director, it was recommended by Council staff to remove items 5 & 7. Under current business, we will only be talking about Letter A. Maitri Campbell would also like to discuss something during the Five-Minute Public Comment section. A motion was made by Beth Mineo to approve the agenda with the recommended adjustment. This motion was seconded by Michael Harris. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- IV. 5 Minute Public Comment Period** – Maitri Campbell shared with the Council that her Home Health agency will not change her time to have the CNA's come at a different time for her to be able attend the Council meetings. Stefanie stated that the Council staff can help her resolve this issue. Maitri Campbell will share the contact information of the agency with Stefanie before she leaves the Council meeting.

Beth Mineo shared that in the process of setting up a lunchtime learning workshop about the recent Dental Bill which would add dental to Medicaid coverage, the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) reached out to Nick Conti who is the State Dental Director. Beth expressed that Nick does not feel confident that the dental benefit will be implemented by the April 2020 deadline that was stated in the original bill due to underestimating the cost of the

benefit. Beth Mineo would like the Council to take a proactive approach against this. Kristin asked if any members on the Council would like to work with CDS to keep the momentum behind this moving forward. Laura Waterland volunteered to help.

V. Chair's Report – Rick Kosmalski stated that someone brought to his attention that the Council used to offer mileage reimbursement. Stefanie stated she will bring the form to future meetings.

VI. Staff Report – Staff members reported the following:

a. Stefanie Lancaster reported:

- i.** Stefanie reminded the Council that the LIFE Conference is coming up on January 29, 2020. Stefanie asked if anyone would be willing to help staff the DDC exhibitor table at the conference. Michael Harris, Isabel Rivera Green and Rick Kosmalski volunteered.
- ii.** Stefanie informed the Council that the registration for the Disability Policy Seminar is now open. Three accessible rooms with roll in showers have been reserved. Stefanie stated anyone that wants to attend must complete the DDC travel requests form. Stefanie, Michael and Rick will be meeting soon to review all requests received.

b. Kristin Harvey reported:

- i.** Kristin stated that the staff attended the Transition Conference. She let the Council know that it was very well attended with over 900 people attending the conference. During the conference, we were able to promote many of the Council's programs such as Junior Partners in Policymaking, Partners in Policymaking for adults, the LIFE Conference and our request for proposals to support a Self-Advocacy organization.
- ii.** Kristin stated that The Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) is developing their Five-Year State plan. DDDS will be hosting focus groups and would like to hear from the community. There will be one on January 7th in New Castle County and one on Friday, January 9 at the Milford Public Library. Kristin informed the Council that Rick Kosmalski and Laura Waterland will be attending the focus group in New Castle. Kristin, Rachel and Emmanuel will be attending the focus group at the Milford Public Library.

- VII. Other Council business** – Stefanie stated the survey recently sent to all members in regards to the survey that was sent out about changing the meeting date and time and to moving to monthly meetings. Stefanie stated that she only received 15/23 responses back. Out of the 15 responses received, it was determined that most people are available on Wednesdays during the day. The motion was made by Laura Greene to meet monthly every second Wednesday from 10 AM to 12 PM with no meetings in July or December. This motion was seconded by Chris Oakes. The motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. Executive Session** – The Council unanimously voted to go into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. Members of the public and those who applied – Kristin, Stefanie and Rick recused themselves. The Council came out of Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. Upon returning to open session, the Council made a motion to accept the recommendation of Candidate #2 for the position of Executive Director. Daniese McMullin Powell and Joceyln Langrehr abstained. The vote passed.
- IX. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*****In accordance with 29 Del. C. 10004 (e)(2), this agenda was posted at least seven days in advance of the meeting.**

*****This agenda is subject to change to include the addition or deletion of items which may arise at the time of the meeting.**

*****Agenda items listed may be considered out of sequence.**